

Hotel Williams,
Log Building No. 4
Murray Bay (west shore)
Grand Island
Alger County
Michigan

HABS No. MI-258 E

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HOTEL WILLIAMS,
LOG BUILDING No. 4

HABS No. MI-258E

Location: Murray Bay (west shore), Grand Island, Alger County,
Michigan.

Present Owner: Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, Ishpeming, Michigan.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: This building is of historical interest as one of a small
number of remaining buildings once devoted to the fur
trade.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Thought to have been constructed for the American Fur Company in 1837 or before 1840 (William F. Lawler, in Michigan History, 22: 282-283 [Summer, 1938]; The Lure of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, 1955).
2. Original and subsequent owners: Purchased by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company in 1901. (This information is incomplete).
3. Original plans and construction: Physical evidence indicates that this building was always a one-room space. Alterations have been made at various times, so that only the wall structure remains of the original building.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A small old log building of historical interest, considerably altered.
2. Condition of fabric: The basic structure is sound but several years of neglect have allowed considerable deterioration of the exterior, especially the clapboarding.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: About 19 feet square; one story; facing east.
2. Foundations: Log sill.

3. Walls: Squared logs laid horizontally. The gable ends are of later frame construction, covered with wood shingles. The exterior covering of clapboards is an addition of unknown date.
4. Porch: A small porch centered on the east wall is sheltered by a continuation of the roof. It has a board floor and two plain square columns. It is not original.
5. Chimney: A small modern brick chimney extends above the north end of the ridge.
6. Openings: Sash and door are replacements or alterations.
7. Roof: The gable roof frame of hewn timbers appears old but does not appear to be the original one. It is similar to those described in Log Buildings No. 1 (MI-258 C) and No. 2 (MI-258 D). The covering is wood shingles, later covered by composition roll roofing.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: This one-story building consists of a single room nearly square in plan. There is no ceiling, the space being open to the roof. See HABS photocopy, MI-258 E-2, for a view of this plan.
2. Flooring: The floor boarding is modern.
3. Walls: The walls are covered with modern vertical boarding.
4. Fireplace: A small modern brick fireplace is centered on the north wall.
5. Hardware: There is a wrought-iron latch on the door, which is hung on two strap hinges on pintles driven into the casing. There are two stays for a bar. This hardware may possibly be old but is probably a clever modern imitation.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The ground slopes gently away from the water of Murray Bay. This building, along with several

others, is near the shore line at the bottom of the slope, amid overgrown grass and some trees.

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